THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) During a seminar on "Freedom of the Seas", the Chief of the Naval Staff had expressed his concern over acts of piracy and terrorism affecting the maritime environment in the Indian Ocean.

India has neither any territorial ambitions nor it seeks to establish any form of hegemony over any given region. However, the country's geo-strategic location astride major maritime trade routes, the need for rapid and sustained growth of its economy, and its many maritime interests give it an automatic point of vantage within the Indian Ocean Region. The regional power status is automatically conferred upon India by these factors. Recognizing its status and responsibilities, India contributes meaningfully towards stability, peace and harmony in the region.

Coordination and cooperation among various agencies of the Union Government as well as of State Governments are continuously encouraged to achieve synergy in planning and action. The same principle of coordination and cooperation with neighbouring countries governs India's international defence cooperation.

Samman Pension to freedom fighters

*496. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of Samman Pension for freedom fighters pending with Government, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases in which Samman Pension has been granted, State-wise, during the period of 1st April, 2006 to 31st March, 2007; and

(c) the reasons broadly, as to why such cases are pending with Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) Pensions to freedom fighters are sanctioned on fulfillment of specified evidentiary requirements which establish eligibility prescribed for sanction of pension. About 1.70 lakh pensions have been sanctioned under the regular scheme, which is in

operation since 1972. State-wise details are annexed as Statement (*See* below).

During the period 01.04.2006 to 31.03.2007, 31 pensions were sanctioned, details of which are as below:

Gujarat	-	03
Kerala	-	25
Orissa	-	01
Punjab	-	02

As on 30.04.2007, about 246 cases forwarded by State Governments are under examination. The State-wise details are as below:

1 Assam	-	18
2 Bihar	-	8
3 Gujarat	-	1
4 Kerala	-	16
5 Karnataka	-	02
6 Madhya Pradesh	-	05
7 HLM cases	-	196 *(Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra & Karnataka)

Receipt of cases, their examination and disposal is a continuous process. While all efforts are made to dispose them expeditiously, no time-frame can be indicated.

*Relate to C.H. Rajeshwara Rao Screening Committee Hyderabad Liberation Movement cases. Based on the recommendations of a committee of officers under Secretary (Border Management), MHA, which included, among others, representatives of the State Governments, it has been decided:

(i) that 100% re-verification of all cases would be undertaken by the three State Governments; and

(ii) a committee of eminent freedom fighters would scrutinize the results of the re-verification and finalize its recommendations, ensuring that no fake claimant gets pension and no genuine freedom fighter is overlooked.

Statement

State-wise number of total pension sanctioned by the Ministry up to 31.03.2007

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of Pensions Sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14,572
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	4,437
4.	Bihar & Jharkhand	24,870
5.	Goa	1,425
6.	Gujarat	3,594
7.	Haryana	1,684
8.	Himachal Pradesh	617
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1,806
10.	Karnataka	10,082
11.	Kerala	3,204
12.	M.P. & Chhattishgarh	3,465
13.	Maharashtra	17,581
14.	Manipur	62
15.	Meghalaya	86
16.	Mizoram	04
17.	Nagaland	03
18.	Orissa	4,189
19.	Punjab	7,007
20.	Rajasthan	808
21.	Tamil Nadu	4,097
22.	Tripura	887

1	2	3
23.	U.P. & Uttarakhand	17,990
24.	West Bengal	22,479
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	03
26.	Chandigarh	89
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	83
28.	Daman & Diu	33
29.	NCT of Delhi	2,043
30.	Pondicherry	317
31.	Indian National Army (INA)	22,467
	TOTAL:	1,69,984

DRDO labs in the country

*497. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many of DRDO labs pertain to life sciences and related fields;

(b) whether it is a fact that the life sciences labs have been able to develop products, critical for survival in the extreme conditions in which armed forces operate; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DRDO has signed agreements with private companies for manufacturing or marketing of such products; and

(d) if so, what has been the annual revenue or royalty earned by the DRDO from such private companies on its research products during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) There are 9 laboratories in DRDO pertaining to Life Sciences and related fields, namely:

(i) Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences
(ii) Defence Institute of Psychological Research
(iii) Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences
(iv) Defence Research and Development Establishment